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A SYMPOSIUM

ON THE VALUE OF HUMANISTIC, PARTICULARLY CLASSICAL,
STUDIES AS A TRAINING FOR MEN OF AFFAIRS¹

I. LETTERS

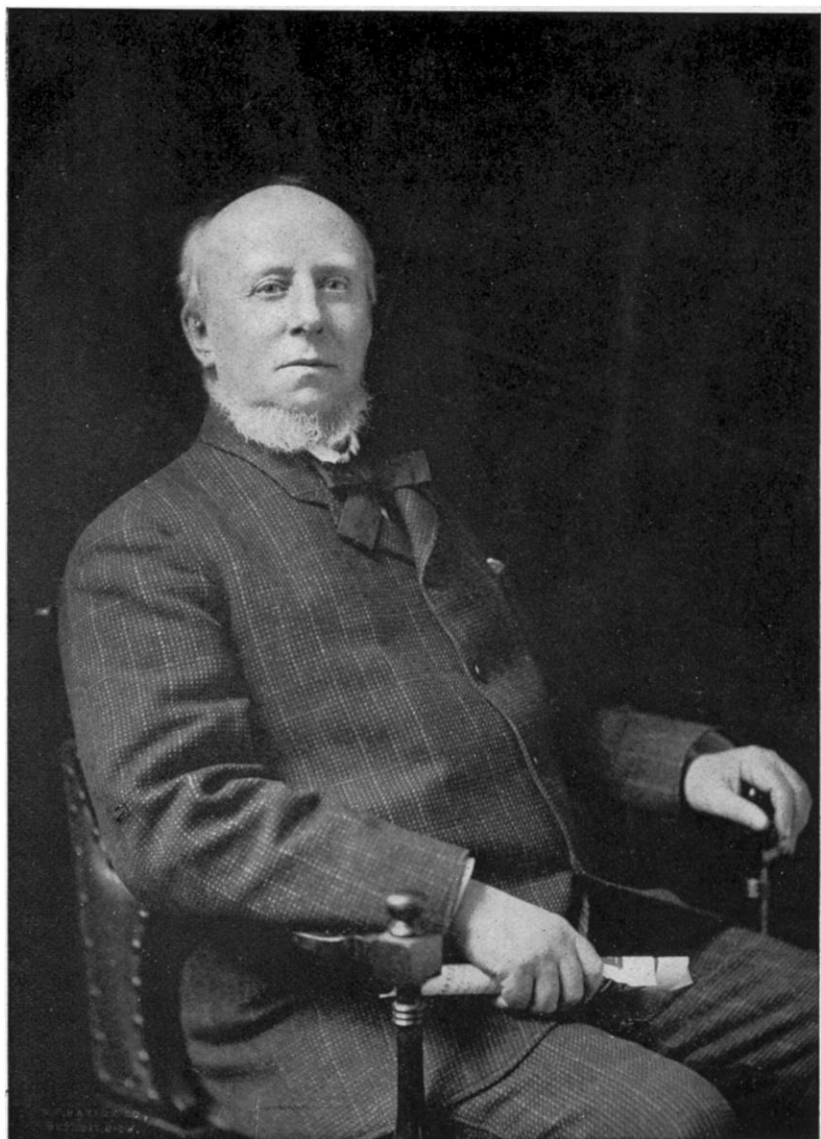
1. FROM THE HON. JAMES BRYCE
Ambassador of Great Britain

It is matter of great regret to me that I cannot attend your Conference, for the longer I watch the currents that are now affecting the higher education, the more I lament the diminished attention that is today given to classical studies. Most people seem to think that a language no longer used by a nation as its daily speech is a dead language and has no value for the modern world. But the truth is that no language which enshrines a great literature and through which the thought of the past speaks to the thinkers of the present can ever die. Such a language is far more alive than those spoken languages which contain little worth reading. Now in the Greek and Roman writers we find much that is not only equal in intrinsic excellence to anything produced since, but much that is quickening and stimulating us just because it is ancient, because it carries us into regions of thought and belief which differ profoundly from those of modern

¹ Part of the Programme of the Classical Conference at Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 3, 1909.

Through the kind assistance of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan and the courtesy of the publishers of the *School Review*, it has been possible to secure some reprints of this symposium for distribution. Those desiring a copy may address (inclosing a two-cent stamp for postage) MR. LOUIS P. JOCELYN, Secretary Michigan Schoolmasters' Club, South Division St., Ann Arbor, Mich. The previous symposiums of this series were as follows:

I. "The Value of Humanistic, Particularly Classical, Studies as a Preparation for the Study of Medicine and Engineering." Published in the *School*



J. B. Russell

times. I do not say that the classics will make a dull man bright, nor that a man ignorant of them may not display the highest literary or the highest practical gifts, as indeed many have done. Natural genius can over-leap all deficiencies of training. But a mastery of the literature and history of the ancient world makes every one fitter to excel than he would have been without it, for it widens the horizon, it sets standards unlike our own, it sharpens the edge of critical discrimination, it suggests new lines of constructive thought. It is no doubt more directly helpful to the lawyer or the clergyman or the statesman than it is to the engineer or the banker. But it is useful to all, for the man of affairs gains, like all others, from whatever enables him better to comprehend the world of men around him and to discern the changes that are passing on in it.

Without disparaging the grammatical and philological study of Greek and Latin, the highest value a knowledge of these languages contains seems to me to lie less in familiarity with their forms than in a grasp of ancient life and ancient thought, in an appreciation of the splendor of the poetry they contain, in a sense of what human nature was in days remote from our own. It is for all of us necessary to live for the present and the immediate future. But it is a mistake to live so entirely in the present as we are apt to do in these days, for the power of broad thinking suffers. It is not only the historian who ought to know the past, nor only the philosopher and the statesman who ought to ponder the future and endeavor to divine it by filling his mind with the best thought which the men of old have left to us.

2. FROM JAMES LOEB

Of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., New York; now retired

That a classical course is a valuable training for business life has always seemed to me a self-evident proposition. This question has been discussed often and at great length by those who are much more worthy

Review, Vol. XIV (1906), pp. 389-414; translated into German by Professor Von Arnim, of the University of Vienna, and published, with an introduction by Dr. S. Frankfurter, under the title "Der Wert des Humanismus, insbesondere der klassischen Studien als Vorbereitung für das Studium der Medizin und der Ingenieurkunde vom Standpunkt der Berufe" (4. Heft, Mitteilungen des Vereins der Freunde des humanistischen Gymnasiums, Vienna and Leipzig, 1907).

II. "The Value of Humanistic Studies as a Preparation for the Study of Law." *School Review*, Vol. XV (1907), pp. 409-35.

III. "The Value of Humanistic, Particularly Classical, Studies as a Preparation for the Study of Theology, from the Point of View of the Profession." *School Review*, Vol. XVI (1908), pp. 370-96, 533-37, and 561-79.

A few reprints of Nos. II and III are still to be had; requests (inclosing two-cent stamps) should be addressed to Secretary Jocelyn. The reprints of No. I are exhausted.